

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAINT ALPHONSUS WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

Boise, ID - Saint Alphonsus is pleased to announce it has recently been honored with a 2007 Partners for Change Award at the Environmental Excellence Summit hosted by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E). The H2E Partners for Change Award recognizes facilities that continuously improve and expand upon their mercury elimination, waste reduction, and pollution prevention programs. At a minimum, facilities receiving this award recycle at least 10 percent of their solid waste, have established mercury elimination programs, and have developed other successful programs to reduce their operations' impact on the environment.

"By reducing its environmental impact, Saint Alphonsus is playing a pioneering role in health care's shift toward protecting public health," said Laura Brannen, Executive Director of Hospitals for a Healthy Environment. "Saint Alphonsus is creating a healthier environment for patients, staff, and the community, and setting an example for other hospitals to follow."

H2E is a joint project of the American Hospital Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, Health Care Without Harm, and the American Nurses Association. The Partners for Change Award recognizes Saint Alphonsus' remarkable achievements in improving environmental performance.

"Here at Saint Alphonsus, we believe that protecting our environment is crucial to protecting the health of the community we serve," said David Hoewing, Director of Environmental Services. "Because of this, we are constantly improving our environmental performance to make our hospital safer and healthier for patients, staff, the community, and the environment."

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To receive the Partners for Change Award, Saint Alphonsus achieved the following:

- Implemented a source Reduction, Reuse, and/or Recycling program whereby at least 10% of total waste has been recycled, reduced, or reused—Saint Alphonsus actually recycles 25% of the total waste stream.
- Implemented plans/programs at some level in the following areas:
 - Mercury Elimination Program—Saint Alphonsus claims to be at least 95% Mercury free with the exception of electronic engineering control switches.
 - Waste Management Plan that includes Waste Reduction Policies and Recycling Programs.
 - Regulated Medical Waste Reduction and Management Program. Saint Alphonsus medical waste stream remains at 10% of total waste volumes for the last 10 years, despite increases in patient volumes over that same period.
 - Hazardous Chemical Minimization Programs—Saint Alphonsus generates less than 1/2% of hazardous waste and is classified by the EPA as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator of hazardous waste materials.
 - Energy Management Systems include installing T8 lamps in place of high energy consumption T12 lamps, installation of variable frequency drive systems in HVAC equipment, and other energy and water conservations measures.
 - “Environmentally Preferable Purchasing” of products and services
 - Green building and resource conservation issues like energy efficiency, water conservation and integrated operations and maintenance.

About Saint Alphonsus. Saint Alphonsus is a 365-licensed bed regional medical center serving people throughout the Northwest. Saint Alphonsus emphasizes care that is patient-centered, innovative and community based. Saint Alphonsus focuses on providing services in a spiritual, healing environment, and is renowned for its state-of-the-art digital environment and pioneering technologies; award-winning clinical services; a nationally accredited Life Flight program and the region's Trauma Center. For information about Saint Alphonsus visit www.saintalphonsus.org.

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